

**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**

*Approved by the*

**Federal Communications Commission, March 3, 1997**

## Minutes of the State Emergency Communication Committee Meeting

**March 11, 2014 - Revised**

Present: Phil Johnson-Central Puget Sound Local Area; Roy Benevente-Washington State Emergency Management Department; Ted Buehner-NWS Seattle; Jason Shirron-King County; Mark Allen-WSAB; Clay Freinwald-WSU; Terry Spring-KWPX TV

Via Phone: Mark Sheppard; Andy Brown-NWS Spokane; Don White-Tribune; Tom Sharp-Pierce County EM; Marlin Jackson-KXLY Spokane; David Black-Tribune; Mike Szkil-NWS Headquarters; Marty Grisham-Tukwila EM; Dave Holloran-San Juan County; Charles Bolanos-Bellevue; Tyree Wilde-NWS Portland

Clay called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Clay reported good progress with CSRIC, the Communication Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council. The sub-committee Clay has been working on has been going through Part 11 in order to clean it up. Their work has been sent to the Commission for approval. It includes some of the tabs from the Washington State EAS Plan that have been adopted for national use. See <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/communications-security-reliability-and-interoperability-council-iii>.

"Real Code" tests have caused some problems in other parts of the country. They can (and have) escaped from their intended areas. False warnings can cause unnecessary concern in the population and weaken the response to real alerts. They are not ordinarily done here. There are EAS codes that are used only for testing.

Tim Schall is now in Yakima. He has become involved in EAS there.

Clay was interviewed in Radio World about EAS. See <http://www.rwonline.com/article/common-sense-matters-with-eas/269038>.

In Old Business, Columbia County had requested that it be moved from the Columbia Basin to the Inland local area. It is in the Spokane DMA and is served by Spokane media. This was approved. There will be tab changes soon to reflect this.

Tab 12 in the state plan is supposed to be links to the local area plans. The following areas have not put their plans on-line or have not forwarded their links to Clay: Clallam; Coastal; Cowlitz-Wahkiakum; Kittitas; Mason-Thurston; North Central; North Puget; Okanogan; Yakima.

Mike Szkil of the National Weather Service Office gave a HazCollect overview presentation via a statewide webinar. All alerts from local jurisdictions are routed through FEMA IPAWS. HazCollect obtains EAS messages from IPAWS. HazCollect is going through testing for local jurisdiction non-weather related EAS message routing to NWS communication systems including to the local NWS forecast office for dissemination on NOAA Weather Radio (EAS) and newswires. See the attached slide deck.

In the Columbia Basin local area the local SBE chapter is assisting the LACC.

There is a new Tsunami Fact Sheet for WEA (Wireless Emergency Alert) from the National Weather Service. See <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/files/WEAFactSheet3.pdf>.

The Washington State EAS Plan revision is close to being done. The plan will move from the WSAB web site to the state Emergency Management web site when it is approved.

Sparta has a new EAS product that apparently has not been approved by the FCC. Beware!

The Washington EMD is working with Mystate to give every Emergency Management organization in the state that wants it access to the system.

In AMBER news, there have been three alerts so far this year. Some maybe should have been Missing Person Alerts, non-EAS, instead. This can be used when AMBER doesn't apply.

At the National Weather Service, the Mt. Octopus weather radio transmitter is back on the air. It's location was moved at some point. They are catching up with paper work and access issues.

In the Central Puget Sound local area, the last RMT sounded good. There were some training issues on previous tests. It should be OK now.

In the Inland local area, the last RMT was from Grant County. They didn't do an audio file, so text to speech was used. There was extra text that shouldn't have been there. The text was hidden on the Mystates web page. This has caught other entities in the past. Mystate is working on the issue.

As a summary, the following tabs will be added or revised soon.

Tab 3: WA State Local Area Map

Tab 4: State Relay Network Map

Tab 5: Western Washington EAS Matrix

Tab 6: Eastern Washington EAS Matrix

Tab 7: Glossary of EAS Terms

Tab 14: Analog National Level System

Tab 22: (NEW) EAS Flow Chart

Tab 31: Index (Revised whenever there is a change in any of the other tabs)

The next SECC Meeting will take place in Ellensburg on May 13 at 9:30 AM.

Terry Spring